

NEWS

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Sweeping RICO Indictment Charges 19 Members of New Jersey's Largest, Oldest Bloods "Set"

(More)

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NEWARK – Nineteen members and associates of the “Double II” set of the Bloods street gang and their Ohio gun supplier were charged today in an expansive racketeering Indictment with five murders, 14 attempted murders, seven murder conspiracies plus numerous aggravated assaults, armed robberies, arson, firearms offenses and a three-year heroin distribution conspiracy, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

The Indictment is perhaps the most comprehensive of its kind ever returned in New Jersey, in terms of the number of defendants charged, the number and severity of charged offenses and the use of federal racketeering statutes to effectively eviscerate the Double II Bloods organization in Essex County. Between the defendants named in today’s Indictment and those named in other federal criminal complaints, the U.S. Attorney’s Office has charged and jailed 42 Double II Bloods members in the past 18 months.

“We are using the gangs’ sophistication against them,” said Christie. “They have organized themselves into highly structured groups, as the Mafia had decades earlier. The same racketeering statutes that brought down the Mob will bring down the gangs in northern New Jersey, where they have grown into a frightening, violent menace.”

The 66-count Superseding Indictment, which was unsealed today, also contains 35 racketeering acts as part of the two RICO counts. The Indictment names Tewhan Butler, also known as “Massacre,” as the leader or “101” of the Double II Set. Quadree Smith, also known as “Trouble,” held the position of Five-Star General or “105” and was the gang’s second-in-command. Also named were Tito Strong, Rahman Nichols, Amir Winn, Calvin Davis, David Alston, Steven Butler, Samir Moses, Baatin Morgan, Anthony Ward, Nasir Johnson, Jabir Jones, Tieheen Smith, Robert Singleton, Howard Wright, Jamar Hurd, Terrance Oliver, Chyquin Austin and James Dillard.

Dillard was the owner of an Ohio gun shop and is accused of selling guns to straw buyers who in turn sold or transferred them into the hands of the Double II Bloods in New Jersey. He was originally charged on Dec. 11, 2003. Today’s Indictment supersedes that Indictment.

The Superseding Indictment was unsealed today. Each of the defendants, with the exception of Dillard, is already in either state or federal custody in state and federal prisons and jails, where they have been since their arrests and/or prosecutions over the last 18 months or so. Before today, they had been charged with various crimes, including murder, murder conspiracy, attempted murder, drug trafficking and weapons offenses, and now, as a group, face federal prosecution under the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization statute (RICO).

The Indictment accuses most of the defendants of committing murder or large-scale drug

trafficking. Because of that, the usual RICO penalties are enhanced to a maximum of life in prison for those so charged. (See table at end of news release for defendants and their respective charges.)

The Double II Set, which started in 1993, is the oldest and largest Bloods set in New Jersey and one of the oldest, if not the oldest, on the East Coast. As alleged in the Superseding Indictment, the Double II set was formed when two members of the Bloods from Inglewood, California traveled to East Orange and introduced the Los Angeles Bloods culture and practices to East Orange. Members of the Bloods dubbed East Orange “Ill-town.” The name Double II reflects the union between Inglewood, California, where the gang originated, and “Ill-town,” where the gang grew in size, power and reputation, according to the Indictment.

Over the 11 years since its creation, the Double II set came to be one of the most prolific and violent gangs on the east coast. To join the gang, prospective members were either beaten into the gang by fellow gang members or were forced to “put in work,” which is the gang’s term for committing acts of extreme violence including murder, according to the Indictment. The gang also followed a strict hierarchy consisting of 11 different positions, each involving unique responsibilities and duties. The gang leadership and history was documented and distributed to the members. Double II members attended regular meetings at which the murdering of rivals, the stockpiling of weapons and retaliation against those believed to be cooperating against the gang were discussed and planned, according to the Indictment.

The Double II set maintained its reputation by instilling in rivals, potential rivals and others in the community a sense of fear, which the members created by committing numerous shootings, including several murders.

In one example, in 2001, Double II members discovered that a group of rival dealers were selling drugs in their territory. The Double II top leaders allegedly held a meeting in East Orange and planned the murders of several of the gang’s rivals. Double II members allegedly broke into teams, each with an assignment to shoot and kill someone at a specific location. Within hours of the meeting, two of the teams are alleged to have shot and wounded people believed to be rivals of the gang.

By frequently resorting to violence of this sort, the gang was able to establish a profitable drug territory. Double II members ran a three-year heroin distribution business in which large amounts of heroin was purchased from different sources in New York City and brought to East Orange to be sold on the street, according to the Indictment. The heroin business was so lucrative, and the number of gang members selling the drug so numerous, that, under the direction of Tewhan Butler and Quadree Smith, shifts were created in

which members sold for a six-hour period before being replaced by the next shift. In this manner, the gang sold heroin and other drugs 24 hours a day, according to the Indictment.

The majority of the gang's violence was directed at rival gangs, particularly the Crips, which operates in different locations in Irvington and East Orange. Mimicking the deadly rivalry between the Bloods and the Crips in Los Angeles, members of the Double II Set routinely went on "Crip killing" raids during which they would travel to what they considered a Crip neighborhood and shoot whomever they saw.

As an example, on April 17, 2004, defendant Samir Moses and other Bloods members traveled in a stolen P.T. Cruiser to a "Crip neighborhood" in order to rob a Crip member. Moses exited the car with a gun and shot and killed a sixteen year old male. Following the murder, Moses and another Bloods member burned the P.T. Cruiser, according to an earlier criminal complaint and the Indictment.

Much of the gang's drug money was collected and used to purchase scores of firearms, many of them being trafficked in from one particular gun store in Xenia, Ohio. Defendant James Dillard, owner of the Hole in the Wall gun store in Ohio, was indicted on Dec. 11, 2003. The Dillard Indictment accused him of using straw buyers – students from nearby Wilberforce University in Xenia – to purchase guns. It is alleged that 76 of some 200 weapons sold through the straw buyers made their way into the hands of the Double II Bloods in Essex County.

Today's Indictment supersedes that December Indictment charging Dillard and others.

"It is fitting and appropriate that the source of those illegal weapons be charged along side of those violent gang members who used the guns to shoot, rob and kill in the streets of New Jersey," Christie said.

Although many of the gang's members were incarcerated in recent years on different state offenses, the gang continued to expand and commit violent activity both in and out of prison. In fact, the gang's leaders created two hierarchies, one pertaining to the Double II members in prison and a second for those who were not. Even while in prison, the gang's leaders continued to run the set, ordering the assault of fellow prisoners believed to be cooperating with authorities, and the shooting of rival gang members on the street.

For their work in this investigation, related prosecutions and continuing law enforcement

efforts against street gangs in Essex County, Christie credited and thanked the following officers and agencies: Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Joseph Billy, Jr. in Newark; Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William McMahon, in New York; assistant prosecutors and investigators from the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor Paula T. Dow; the East Orange Police Department, under the direction of Director Jose Cordero and Chief Charles Grimes; the Irvington Police Department, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Director Michael Damiano and Chief Michael Chase; the Newark Police Department, under the direction of Director Anthony Ambrose and Chief Irving Bradley Jr.; the Essex County Department of Corrections, under the direction of Director Scott Faunce, and the Essex County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Sheriff Armando Fontoura.

U.S. v. Tewhan Butler, et al. - Counts by Defendant

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>RICO Conspiracy and RICO</u>	<u>Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering</u>	<u>Other Drug/ Gun Counts</u>
Tewhan Butler a/k/a "Massacre" Age 25 East Orange	Counts 1 & 2	Counts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy) Count 54 (Heroin Dist) Count 55 (Heroin Dist.) Count 58 (Heroin Dist.)
Quadree Smith a/k/a "Trouble" Age 24 Newark	Counts 1 & 2	Counts 3, 4, 5 Counts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Counts 20, 21 Count 30 Count 31, 32	Count 36 (924c) Count 37 (924c) Count 39 (924c) Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy) Counts 57 (Heroin Dist.) Count 47 (Consp. to Deal) Count 48 (Deal. w/o Lic.) Count 49 (Felon in Poss.)
Tito Strong a/k/a "Bido" Age 28 Montclair	Counts 1 & 2		Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy) Count 61 (Heroin Dist.)
Rahman Nichols a/k/a "Rock" Age 23 East Orange	Counts 1 & 2		Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy)
Amir Winn a/k/a "YG" Age 21 East Orange	Counts 1 & 2	Counts 28, 29	Count 43 (924c) Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy)

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>RICO Conspiracy and RICO</u>	<u>Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering</u>	<u>Other Drug/ Gun Counts</u>
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Calvin Davis a/k/a “Balione” Age 22 Newark	Counts 1 & 2		Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy) Count 59 (Heroin Dist.) Counts 44 & 62 (924 c & Heroin Dist.) Count 50 (Felon in Poss.)
David Alston a/k/a “Floco” Age 29 Irvington	Counts 1 & 2	Count 27	Count 42 (924c) Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy) Count 56 (Crack Dist.)
Steven Butler a/k/a “Beezo” Age 21 East Orange	Counts 1 & 2	Counts 20, 21	Count 39 (924c) Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy) Count 55 (Heroin Dist.) Count 58 (Heroin Dist.)
Samir Moses a/k/a “SP” Age 19 East Orange	Counts 1 & 2	Count 34	Count 45 (924c)
Baatin Morgan a/k/a “Bat” Age 26 Newark		Counts 22, 23 Count 35	Count 46 (924c) Count 51 (Felon in Poss.)
Anthony Ward a/k/a “P.B” or “Problem Child” Age 21 Newark	Counts 1 & 2	Counts 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 Counts 20, 21	Count 39 (924c) Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy)
Nasir Johnson a/k/a “Nas” Age 25 Orange	Counts 1 & 2		Count 53 (Heroin Conspiracy) Count 60 (Heroin Dist.)

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>RICO Conspiracy and RICO</u>	<u>Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering</u>	<u>Other Drug/ Gun Counts</u>
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Jabir Jones a/k/a "Hova" Age 22 Newark		Counts 6, 7, 8	Count 37 (924c)
Tieheen Smith a/k/a "X" Age 22 Newark	Counts 1 & 2	Counts 24, 25, 26	Count 40 (924(l)) Count 41 (924c)
Robert Singleton a/k/a "BR" Age 25 East Orange	Counts 1 & 2	Count 33	Count 64 (Heroin Dist.) Count 65 (Heroin Dist.) Count 52 (Felon in Poss.)
Howard Wright a/k/a "Murder" Age 22 Newark		Counts 6, 9, 10	Count 38 (924c)
Jamar Hurd a/k/a "Fox" Age 21 East Orange	Counts 1 & 2	Count 33	Count 66 (Crack Dist.)
Terrance Oliver a/k/a "Big Red" Age 25 East Orang		Count 35	Count 46 (924c) Count 63 (Crack Dist.)
Chyquin Austin a/k/a "QB" Age 21 Newark		Count 31, 32	
James Dillard Age 62 Xenia, Ohio			Count 47 (Consp. to Deal) Count 48 (Deal. w/o Lic.)

<u>Defendant</u>	<u>RICO Conspiracy and RICO</u>	<u>Violent Crimes in Aid of Racketeering</u>	<u>Other Drug/ Gun Counts</u>
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